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International Application n°

**WRITTEN OPINION FROM THE ADMINISTRATION
IN CHARGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCH REPORT (SEPARATE SHEET)**

PCT/FR2004/002420

Regarding the point IV

Lack of unity of the invention

This administration considers that the claims cover the following inventions :

- I) Claim 1 concerns a coupling bar
- II) Claim 9 concerns a connecting device comprising a casing which forms housing provided with two input terminals for the connection of an electrical appliance of the circuit-breaker type.

It is indicated that the inventions are not linked as to form a single general inventive concept, as it is required by Rule 13.1 PCT.

Regarding the point V

Motivated declaration with respect of novelty, inventive step and the possibility of industrial application ; citations and explanations supporting this declaration

- 1. It is referred to the following documents
 - D1 : FR-A-2 030 503 (CGE) November 13, 1970 (1970-11-13)
 - D2 : FR-A-2 027 501 (CGE) October 2, 1970 (1970-10-02)
 - D3 : BE 624 438 A (RODENIT HUGO HAHN) May 6, 1963 (1963-05-06)
 - D4 : GB-A-1 597 415 (REHAU PLASTIKS) September 9, 1981 (1981-09-09)
 - D5 : DE 69 28 816 U (BRITISCH LIGHTING INDUSTRIES LTD) February 12, 1970 (1970-02-12)
 - D6 : FR-A-2 681 479 (VILMA SA) March 19, 1993 (1993-03-19)
 - D7 : EP-A-0 465 099 (NOKIA ALUMIINI OY) January 8, 1992 (1992-01-08)
 - D8 : DE 195 15 358 A (PHOENIX CONTACT GMBH & CO) December 14, 1995 (1995-12-14)
 - D9 : FR-A-2 831 320 (SIEMENS AG) April 25, 2003 (2003-04-25)
 - D10 : DE 30 23 499 A (BBC BROWN BOVERI & CIE) January 14, 1982 (1982-01-14)
 - D11 : FR-A-2 649 550 (TELEMECANIQUE) January 11, 1991 (1991-01-11)

2. The present application does not comply with the conditions, set out in Article 33(1) PCT, the object of claim 1 is not in conformity with the novelty criteria defined in Article 33(2)PCT.

a. Document D1 describes (see fig 1 ; the references between brackets apply to this document) :

"...Electrical coupling bar including :

- a support (10), electrically insulating, exhibiting two parallel grooves,
- a metallic strip (12, 13) engaged in each groove, the metallic strips projecting out of the grooves and exhibiting interior faces opposite on another, delimiting between them a free engagement space for a connecting device, said free engagement space being devoid of any element or extremity of said support,
- and protecting means covering the other faces of the metallic strips (3).

The object of the claim is also known by document D2.

3. The depending claims 1-8 do not contain any feature, in combination with those features of one of any claims they refer to, which defines an object that complies with the requirements of PCT, with respect of novelty or inventive step, see documents D1-D7 and the corresponding passages mentioned in the search report.